THE PERENNIAL PROBLEMS Of Our PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ORTHOGRAPHY

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It is with considerable trepidation that I approach the subject of our Pennsylvania German orthography. I am fully aware of the fact that anyone who ventures to express opinions concerning this perennial problem "sticks his neck out." but trying to teach the students in my courses in Pennsylvania German to read our dialect in the various inconsistent and unphonetic systems of transcription which have been used in the past by those who have tried to write in the dialect and also trying to indicate by the spelling of the words the regional variants in the Pennsylvania German dialect have convinced me more than ever of the desirability of agreeing upon a uniform and consistent system of orthography to be used, if not in all cases, at least in all scholarly studies of the Pennsylvania German dialect and Pennsylvania German folklore.

My first struggle with Pennsylvania German orthography began in 1935, when I wrote the first chapter of my doctor's dissertation. (1) This chapter was entitled "Orthography," and in it I analyzed the various systems of spelling which had been used by those who had tried to write in the dialect up to that time. My study showed that up until 1935 no two writers had written the dialect alike and that no one writer was consistent in his orthograph.

The largest number of inconsistencies and incongruities I found naturally in the writings of those authors who tried to represent the Pennsylvania German sounds by using the English equivalents. (2) some of these writers used as many as five different symbols to indicate the same sound. (3) But in spite of the inconcgruities and deficiencies in spelling, the works of these writers, particularly Harter's **Boonastiel**, were widely read and have remained perennially popular. Thus, a large percentage of the Pennsylvania German population has learned to read the dialect in this inconsistent spelling.

Inconsistencies were also present and disagreement prevailed in the orthography of those writers who endeavored to make the German orthography the basis of their spelling. Fischer, Daniel Miller, and Zimmerman, for example, used the Umlaut, whereas Harbaugh, Ziegler ,and More did not employ it. (4) In the designation of the low back vowel these writers used **a, ah,** or **aa, e.g. Grab, ab, Fraa** (New High German "Grab," "auch," "Frau") Furthermore, they did not always clearly indicate the quantity of the vowel. Some of them occasionally wrote a vowel twice to show that it was long, while others occasionally doubled the consonant to indicate that the preceding vowel was short. Unfortunately however, neither one of these devices was used consistently.

In 1924 Marcus B. Lambert published his **Dictionary of Non-English Words of the Pennsylvania German Dialect.** In transcribing the 16,438 words listed in his dictionary Lambert used a fairly consistent and phonetic system based on German orthography.

In addition to these two prevailing systems of spelling (i.e. the "English" and the "German") I found a group of Pennsylvania German writers who used a system which might be characterized as an unskilled mixture of English and German orthography. I shall quote by way of illustration a few lines from the writings of three of the most significant representatives of this system, namely, Ezra Grumbine, Joseph H. Light, and William S. Troxell ("Pumpernickle Bill"). The following verses occur in Ezra Grumbine's **Der Prahl-Hans** (Lebanon, 1917):

'Sis now shon may als hunnert Yohr,
Do war der Greek by Baltimore:—
Der Englen'r halt noch immer'n Shpite
Von olta Revolution's Zeit.

Gedrafta Menner un Volunteers
Sin ganga mit Hurrah un Cheers,—
Die yunga Karls ous Shtadt un Land,
Tzu fechta for ihr Vaterland.

De' onnera sawgt er's ally Dawg
We er's de Britisha macha mawg;
Sei Cop die zetzt er 'uf's link Ohr,
Un shwert er geht noch Baltimore.

In the preface of his book Grumbine acknowledges that his spelling is not without defects. He remarks: "I ought perhaps to apologize for my spelling. It is not the learned 'high-low' German of Harbaugh, nor the phonetic style of Shwefflebrenner (E. H. Rauch), with his useless and superfluous silent letters, but my own, **sui generis,** which the Pennsylvania German who learned to read English books in the schoolhouse but played ball and 'ring-a-rong-a-rosie' on the campus in the vernacular, can pronounce and understand. My spelling has its defects, not the least of which is its lack of uniformity, but for that I atone to the critic by this Apology."

The first paragraph of J. H. Light's **Der Alt Schuhlmeshter** (Lebanon, 1928) reads as follows:

Well mer hen der McKinley b'sucht de onner wuch un hen en bangup zeit g'hat. Es is der gabrauch dorch den gonser campain dos de leit fon olle ecke gahne nuch Canton um zu sahne wie der McKinley unser naighster president, donn ah guckt. So hen mier ousg'mocht es waer de pflicht fon der Valley ihn zu b'suche. Mer hen en kommittee appoint for arrangements zu moche un de hut ousg'mocht om blots fon der reigelwage kumpany en grosse sum geld zu gevve dahte mer zomma schponna un uf der wage gah, un ich kann eich sawga mer hen uns recht gut enjoyed.

The following lines taken from one of William S. Troxell's (Pumpernickle Bill's) letters published in **The Morning Call,** Allentown, May 8, 1948, will serve as an illustration of his "English-German" spelling:

Soicha os'm onnerra Somshdaag owet on da Lechaw Kerrich worra fer da "Ead" Fink ihra "Fergesslicher Mon," sehna, un hen 's glick kot fer dabei tzu sei, on da rechter tzeit han der graimer Irvie Kerchner fon Macungie tzwae mohl sehna kenna ous un ei pocka, Der Irvie is der Graimer im g'shpiel un hut gute gaduh, wie aw ol die onnerra hen. Ow'r die g'shbass is noch 'm g'shpiel ob gonga drous in da shtross wie 'm Irvie der bind'l uf gonga is, un allas is in die shtross g'falla. 'S wor yusht gute os es windshtil wor, odder der Irvie wear ferleicht ols noch on dale fon seim gagrawm sucha.

It should be pointed out here that Mr. Troxell has been writing his daily columns for **The Morning Call** for more than twenty-two years, and that during that time he has gained an immense following. These people have become so thoroughly accustomed to Mr. Troxell's peculiar type of spelling that they would undoubtedly object strenuously, if any other system of orthography were used. Thus, in spite of the fact that Pennsylvania German is a German dialect, it is probably useless to hope that Mr. Troxell or other writers of newspaper columns who now use the "English" system or the "English-German" system for spelling the dialect would ever agree to the adoption of a system which follows the German tradition.

In the same year that I wrote the chapter on orthography for my doctor's dissertation Dr. Preston A. Barba began the publication of his **'S Pennsylfawnisch Deitsch Eck** in the Saturday edition of **The Morning Call,** i.e. in the same newspaper which had been publishing Pumpernickle Bill's columns for more than nine years. Dr. Barba courageously "stuck his neck-out" and based his spelling of the dialect on German orthography; and at a historic meeting of Pennsylvania German writers and scholars held at Hershey on January 28, 1939, the system of spelling used by Dr Barba was "unanimously endorsed by the members of the conference as representing a working basis for further study and organization." (5) This system now seems quite generally accepted for semi-popular use. It has been used in the various **Yearbooks** of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society (e.g. in John Birmelin's "Gezwitscher," published in volume three, and in Clarence F. Iobst's "En Quart Millich un en halb Beint Raahm," published in volume four.) It has also been used in a slightly modified form by J. William Frey in his **A Simple Grammar of Pennsylvania Dutch** (Clinton, S. C., 1942.) By this time the readers of the **Eck** have become so accustomed to seeing the dialect in this spelling that they would probably object if any changes were made in it.

It is doubtful whether many of the readers of Pumpernickle Bill's columns also read the **Eck** and vice versa. The **Eck** appeals to a different group of people than do Pumpernickle Bill's columns. It appeals more to the scholar and the more highly educated reader, particularly to the Pennsylvania German who knows both the dialect and Standard German. The latter group of readers naturally prefer the "German" system of spelling.

A number of non-Pennsylvania German scholars inside and outside of Pennsylvania also read the **Eck,** and these "outsiders" also get a far better picture of the dialect in Dr. Barba's "German" system of spelling than they would if the "English" or "English-German" systems were used.

Cf. Albert F. Buffington. "A Grammatical and Linguistic Study of Pennsylvania German." **Harvard University Summaries of Ph. D. Theses, 1937** (Cambridge, 1938), pp. 290-93.

2 Cf., for example, E. H. Rauch. **Pennsylvania Dutch Hand-Book** (Mauch Chunk, Penna., 1879); Thomas H. Harter, **Boonastiel** (Bellefonte, 1904); Harvey M. Miller ("Solly Hulsbuck"), **Pennsylvania-German Poems** Elizabethville, Penna., 1906), **Pennsylvania-German Stories, Prose and Poetry** (Elizabethville, 1911), **G'shbos und Arnsht** (Elizabethville, 1939); A. Monroe Aurand Jr. **D'r Mon Mit D'r Hock** (Harrisburg, 1934.)

3 Cf. Albert F. Buffington, "The Pennsylvania German Dialect," in: **The Pennsylvania Germans,** ed. by R. Wood (Princeton, 1942), pp. 266ff., for examples of these inconsistencies.

4 Cf. Henry L. Fischer, **"S Alt Marik Haus Mittes in D'r Stadt** (York, 1879), **Kurzweil un Zeitfertreib** (York, 1882); Daniel Miller, **Pennsylvania German,** 2 vols. (Reading, I. 1903; II. 1911); Thomas C. Zimmerman, **Olla Podrida,** 2 vols. (Reading, 1903); Henry Harbaugh, **Harbaugh's Harfe** (Philadelphia, 1870); Charles C. Ziegler, **Drauss un Deheem** (Leipzig, 1891); Heinz Kloss, ed., **Lewendiche Schtimme aus Pennsilveni** (Stuttgart and New York, 1922.)

5 Cf. Arthur D. Graeff, "Standardizing Pennsylvania German Orthography." **Eck,** May 13, 1939.

TO BE CONCLUDED

RURAL RHYMES

By ARTHUR D. GRAEFF

Der Gross Gnecht bsinnt sich:

**"Ich denk ich geh mol noch de Schdadt
Mir anneri Aerwet suche;
Dann kann ich in de Movies geh
Un aa der Michel bsuche.
Der Michel, der hot gut gemacht
Eeim Werley in de Miehl;
Verleicht kann ich mich bessere,
Wann ich recht hart druff ziel!**

**Ich bin es ledich, so im Dienscht
Hart schaffe alle Daag.
Ich weess doch wohl, der Bauer do
Waerd bees—ya well! er maag.
Mer muss ausgucke far sich selbscht
Un scharre hart druff los.
Ich darf mich net verseime do—
Die Welt iss arrig gross!"**

**Der Gnecht iss dann mol uff die Rees—
Zum Movie geht er nei.
"Was dumme Gschichte sin des yo—
Es macht mich naerrisch glei!
Der Donald Duck, der Mickey Mouse—
Die schwetze yo wie Leit.
So Marderei, Gekaressier!
Gewiss, des iss net gscheit!"**

**Der Michel waar im Union Hall,
Am schtimme fer en Schtreik;
Der naegscht Daag uff der Picket March,
Der Deiwel schpielt die Geik!
Fer karze Schtunne, mehner Luh
Un unnerschittlich Sache—
Sei Geld waar fart, sei Tschapp kaputt—
Un all die Deiwel lache!**

**"Ich denk ich geh dann besser heem,
Duh Iwwerhosse aa;
Un melk die Kieh un drenk die Geil
Un denk do nimmi draa!
Die Schdadt, die Miehl, sin net fer mich—
Es maag fer annere sei—
Bhalt mei Verschdand un bleib deheem—
Graad uff de Bauerei."**

Die Grossmammi denkt:

**'S iss alles zu arrig; die Welt geht zu schtarrig:
Yeder Mensch iss gedreht uff Blessier!
Nau es waar mol en Zeit, wu beschefticbe Leit,
Sich yo verhungert hen schier
Fer paar Dahler zu sammele im Sack.
Nau brennt Geld en Loch—Luh halt net ee Woch—
Un es naegscht iss schier immer "in Hock."**

**Des schpatziere rumfaahre, vun Inschein gebore—
'S iss en Schand des Ding zu verzaehle—
Doch do in meim Haus die Wohret muss raus—
Sin die yunge Leit immer am gwaele—
"Paep, geb mer Gas un aa ebbes Geld;
Zum Movie muss ich geh." Des Ding dutt mer weh—
Blessier mit Maschine zwengt die Welt!**

**Doch iss es gfaehrlich fer rede unehrlich;
Ich wott ich waer aa noch yung.
Ich gingt aa ebmols fart; sell hett ich dann ghatt—
Halt besser mei aldi Zung!
Yunge Leit welle Gschpass—vergunn's ne aa net—
Die Eld schleicht sich hie—schteife Achsel un Knie—
Noh iss mer's bescht ab in seim Bett!**

En Gleeni Schtori

Wann yusht mei Grossdaadi noch lewe daet—der hot eich als die Schtoris verzehle kenne. Er iss nau schunn lange Yohre dot, awwer eeni vun seine Schtoris kummt mir immer widder in der Sinn. Do waar eener Uriah Muschlitz aus em Schnebbedaal in Lower Saucon Daunschipp, kummt mol ee Daag uff der Marrick in Easton un sehnt en sign amme Poschde aagschlagge, as de Leit bekannt macht, es daet seller seeme Owed en gewisser Brofessor aus Nei Yarrick en speech mache far de Leit zu prufe, ass ken Gott waer un sell daet er aa unne Zweiwel duh. "So ebbes," saagt der Uriah in sei verschpauder Baart nei, "daet ich aa mol gleiche zu heere. Des waer ebbes far unser Parre."

Well, der Uriah iss gange. En Schtunn un en halb hot er dart gsotze un dem Professor zugheert, wie er Gott un die Biwel un die Kaerrich un alles Heiliche verschpott un lecherlich gemacht hot. Un am End hot der Brofessor sich noch so recht batzich uff die Zehe gschtellt un in der Hall neigeblaerrt: "Un nau, mei liewe Leit, hawwich eich glaar un deitlich un verschtendlich gewisse, as es gaar ken Gott gebt. Wann ich awwer letz bin, dann waer es nau em Gott sei Pflicht en Engel vum Himmel runner zu schicke mir dichdich Ohrfeige zu gewwe."—Un wie der Brofessor noch emol so batzich im hall rumguckt, do tschumbt der Uriah in die Heeh, schbringt der aisle nunner, gradd nuff var der Brofessor un saagt: "Weescht was, Brofessor? Unser alder Haerrgott brauch gaar ken Engel do runner schicke far so en Orschlabbe wie du. Far sell hot Er der Uriah Muschlitz gemacht!" un mit sellem hot der Uriah ihm eens uffs Ohr gewwe, ass der Brofessor schtraks uff der Boddem gelegt hot. Was die Leit awwer gelacht un geglaebbt hen! Der Brofessor iss langsam zu sich kumme un iss dann gans verschecht zu de hinners Dier naus.

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Conclusion

In many of the linguistic and scholarly studies of the Pennsylvania German dialect and Pennsylvania German folklore which have been made in the past the phonetic alphabet of the International Phonetic Association, or various modifications of it, has been used to transcribe the sounds of the dialect. Unfortunately, such transcriptions can not be read and understood by the average layman.

An ideal alphabet to be used in such linguistic and scholarly studies would seem to be one which would not only be consistent and phonetic but one which would also be intelligible to the German-reading layman. The following system which I devised and which I have used in transcribing the linguistic variants in the Pennsylvanja German dialect seems to fulfill these requirements, and I should therefore like to recommend its use for future studies of the Pennsylvania German dialect and folklore, particularly in those studies where the oral utterances of dialect speakers must be transcribed:

1. Accented Vowel Sounds

(a) The short vowels:

Symbol	Sound
a	Like English "o" in hot;" (6) ex: **glad** "smooth."
ae	Like English "a" in "fat" (except in **Gaes** "gas", where it is pronounced like English "a" in "gas)" ex: **Maedsch** "match."
e	Like English "e" in "get"; ex: **gewe** "give'.'
i	Like English "i" in "fit"; ex: **dig** "thick."
o	Like English "u" in "cut"; ex: **Kob** "head."
u	Like English "oo" in "foot"; ex: **Buch** "book."
r	After another vowel sound and immediately preceding a consonant or at the end of a word like English "a" in "father"; ex: **Feerschd** "verse," **Haar** "hair", **mr** "we" (unaccented form), "one" (indefinite pronoun.)

(b) The long vowels:

Symbol	Sound
aa	Like English "au"in "author"; ex: **Naas** "nose."
ee	Like English "ai" in "sail"; ex: **See** "sea."
ie	Like English "ie" in "believes"; ex: grie "green."
oo	Like English "oa" in "boat"; ex: **rood** "red."
uu	Like English "oo" in "moon"; ex: **Huud** "hat."

(c) The diphthongs:

Symbol	Sound
au	Like English "ou" in "house"; ex: **Gaul** "horse."
ei	Like English "ei" in "height"; ex: **heid** "today."
oi	Like English "oy" in "boy"; ex: **Hoi** hay."

2. Unaccented Vowel Sounds.

Symbol	Sound
e	Like English "a" in "sofa"; ex: **hawe** "have."
i	Like English "y" in "pity"; ex: **scheeni** "pretty."
r	At the end of words or in the prefix **fr** like English "a" in "father"; ex: **bruudr** "brother," **frgese** "forget."

3. The Consonants

Symbol	Sound
b	At the beginning of words like English "b" in "bite"; ex: **beise** "to bite." In the middle of words this sound becomes softer, almost like the "pp" in "apple"; ex: **Lumbe** "rag." At the end of words it is pronounced like English "p" in "stop'; ex: **Kalb** "calf."
ch	No equivalent in English. A prolonged and whispered pronunciation of the English "y" in "yes" is approximately the Deitsch **ch** after front vowels (**ae, e, i, ee, ie, ei**) ex: **ich "I"**. After the back vowels (**a, o, u, aa, oo, uu, au**) the **ch** has a deeper sound, farther back in the throat. To produce this sound, pronounce one of the back vowels, and raising the tongue in the back, force air out as in clearing the throat: ex: **Dach** "roof."
d	At the beginning of words like English "d" in "do"; ex: **drei** "three." In the middle of words this sound becomes softer, almost like English "tt" in "better"; ex: **Bruudr** "brother." At the end of words it is pronounced like English "t" in "fat"; ex: **Feld** "field."
f	Like English "f" in "field"; ex: **Fuus** "foot."
g	At the beginning of words like English "g" in get"; ex: **gewe** "give." In the middle of words like the English "gg" in "'beggar"; ex: **guge** "to look." At the end of words it is pronounced like English "k" in "bark"; ex: **Weeg** "road."
(g)	The **(g)** occurs only medially. When preceeded by a front vowel (**ae, e, i, ee, ie, ei**) the **(g)** is a very soft glide sound, approximately like the glide sound heard between the "i" and "e" of English "orient"; ex: **Re(g)e** "rain." ...ter the back vowels the **(g)** represents an even softer, almost inaudible glide sound; ex: **Aa(g)e** "eyes."
h	Like English "h" in "house"; ex: **hawe** "have."
k	Like English "c" in "cold"; ex: **Kalb** "calf."
l	Like English "l" in "let"; ex: **Loch** "hole."
m	Like English "m" in "mine"; ex: **Mesr** "knife."
n	Like "n" in English "not"; ex: **nee** "no."
ng	Always like English "ng" in "singer" (never as in "finger"); ex: **Ring** "ring."
p	Like English "p" in "penny"; ex: **Peif** "pipe."
r	At the end of words or in the prefix **fr** like English "r" "rose," but trilled or flapped once; ex: **ruufe** "to call," **frlierre** "to lose."
s	Always voiceless, like English "**s**" in "six" or "ss" in "miss"; ex: **Seel** "soul", **leese** "to read," hees "hot."
sch	Like English "sh" in "ship"; ex: **schl 'nge** "to run", **b--chd** "best", **wesche** "to wash." .. .. ..
dsch	Like English "ch" in "church"; ex: **Dschab** "job", **rudsche** "to slide."
t	Like English "t" in "teacher"; ex: **Tiged** "ticket." This sound occurs only initially before vowels and in English loan words.

It will be observed that my transcription indicates clearly whether the vowel is long or short (e.g. **bluug** or **blug** for "plow.) A different device which might have been used to indicate the quantity of the vowel would have been to consistently double the consonant after the vowel to designate the short sound (e.g. **Blugg** and to write a single consonant after the long vowel sound. Both of these devices (i.e. the doubling of the vowel and the doubling of the consonant) are used in Standard German (e.g. **See, Boot, Paar, Saal, Tee, Seele ,Heer, Moos, Saat, Beet, Meer** or **Blatt, denn, offen, Butter, Gott, Sommer, Bett, messen, fallen**) so that the use of either one of them should not cause the layman who knows Standard German any difficulty. One must simply state at the beginning which one of these devices one is going to employ and then use it consistenly.

It will also be noted that I do not write an **r** when the **r** is not pronounced, (e.g. **Dauf** or **Daref** for the verb "to be permitted to," Standard German **duerfen; Garewle** or **Gaweli** for "sheaf," etc.) I regard the writing of an **r** in such words as **dart, fart,** and **hart,** where an r-sound is not heard or pronounced, as one of the most serious faults of the system of spelling now employed in the **Eck.** This practice has given to many non-Pennsylvania German scholars who have a sincere interest in our dialect a false impression of it.

Another practice which I have eliminated in my transcription is the use of the apostrophe in the combination **g'h** and **b'h.** I have discovered that the use of the latter combinations tends to produce among non-Pennsylvania German students and scholars who try to read our dialect a spelling-pronounciation which is artificial and not in accord with actual usuage.

One of the most difficult problems connected with the spelling of our dialect has been the transcription of English loan words. Various practices have been followed: Some writers have kept all English loan words in their regular English spelling; others have spelled some of the loan words with German sound values but have kept the English spelling (in quotation marks) of others. The situation is especially complicated by the following facts which I pointed out in my study of English loan words in Pennsylvania German: (7)

1. The percentage, of English loan words used by speakers of Pennsylvania German for many of our **everyday** objects and concepts is comparatively high.

2. A large majority of the English words in Pennsylvania German are adapted to the phonemic patterns of native words.

After wrestling with this problem of loan words for fourteen years I have come to the conclusion that the most satisfactory solution is to transcribe all English loan words with German sound values regardless of how clumsy some of them may look. If we try to make a distinction in our spelling between those loan words which have been "absorbed" into Pennsylvania German and those which have not, we run into all sorts of difficulties. In the first place, who is to decide which loan words have been absorbed and which have not? Secondly, our writing of the dialect is considerably impeded and slowed up, if we have to stop every time we wish to write an English loan word and decide whether the word has been absorbed or not. And finally, the percentage of English loan words in Pennsylvania German which are pronounced exactly as in English is relatively small.

Before concluding this discussion, it might be well to give by way of illustration a specimen of the dialect transcribed according to the system proposed above.

The following is a version of the song **Schloof, Bobeli, Schloof** as sung to me by William Brown Jr. of Hepler (Schuylkill Co.):

Schloof, Bobeli, schloof!
Dr Daadi hied die Schoof.
Die Mami hied die braune Kie
Un kumd ned heem bis Mariye frie.
Schloof, Bobeli, schloof!
Schloof, Bobeli, schloof!
Dr Daadi hied die Schoof.
Die Mami die kochd Schniz un Kneb
Dr Daadi hald die Kefer weg.
Schloof, Bobeli, schloof!

The above spelling does look queer and **fremdartig** to those of us who have been accustomed to reading the dialect in other transcriptions, but it is consistent and phonetic and no Pennsylvania German or non-Pennsylvania German who knows Standard German should have any diffculty in reading it. Furthermore, it seems reasonable to make a few aesthetic sacrifices for the sake of consistency.

6 The English equivalents which I give here and in the following descriptions of the sounds must be, in some cases, merely approximate equivalents.

7. Cf. Albert F. Buffington, "English Loan Words in Pennsylvania German," **Studies in Honor of John Albrecht Walz** (Lancaster, 1941) pp. 65-85.

EDITORIAL

Professor Buffington in his article concluded in this issue of the ECK presents an earnest endeavor to establish a phonetic and consistent orthography for our dialect. It is admittedly a system devised to transcribe the spoken word as heard by the phonetician, with special regard for accurate rendition of regional differences in pronunciation and form. Unfortunately the system leaves unsolved many problems that confront the Editor of the ECK who cannot regard with any degree of accuracy regional differences in oral utterances. Since he has had to edit large portions of our dialect literature, past and present, it became necessary to attempt to establish something of a norm or standard, at the same time in the knowledge that no symbols at the disposal of the linotypist are adequate in rendering the phonetic pattern of our dialect. The scientific phonetician does not consider it within his province to establish norms or standards, to choose between better or worse, to exercise taste and discrimination. His function is only to observe the phenomenta of the spoken word—as he hears it! But there's the rub! The human ear is not infallible. It is amazing how phoneticians disagree about what they hear. They like to think they are both phonetic and consistent. Some of our dialect writers have also applied these abused words to their own spelling. The editor of the ECK no longer labors under any illusions in this respect. He has never made a fetish of consistency, remembering Emerson's famous dictum about consistency. Mindful of the demands the eye makes upon the printed page he has tried not to break away too rudely from long established traditions of German orthography, knowing that even our modern public is far more conservative than most academic persons are willing to concede, as witness for example the many futile efforts to reform our English orthography.

The Editor of the ECK is of the opinion that an eventual orthography for our dialect must be of slow organic growth and not imposed by any one person. However, much progress could be made if individual differences could be submitted to a deciding body, after the manner of the French Academy.

We have asked three of our foremost protagonists of phonetic spelling to transcribe the following stanza from Edward Hermany's long poem **Wie die Alde nooch der "Heio" sin.** Hermany, one of the most gifted of our poets, no doubt also believed he was phonetic and consistent. Most of his poems remain today unpublished. He wrote the stanza as follows:

'S hud g'haisa, doord wahr's Lond gons aiva,
D'r shwordz groond ochdzay foohsz deef nooner!
Mit bissel shoffa kennd m'r laiva.
On wea's doch woggsa daid wahrn Woonner:
'S hud warklich ae so'n Ollder gshwoara—
Di Froocht daid sich so digg doord shdugga
Dos ned 'n Mysel drinn kennt hugga!
D'r Waidsa dar daid nea ned faila,
"Ae hoonnerd Booshel" kennd m'r tzaila
Tzoo yaiderm Ogger yairlich, hendig!—
Wahr's g'haird hud, dar wawr gons levvendig,
F'r in di "Hyo Shdaid" tzoo ziege—
Gadenkd dos Mensha kennda leaga
Hud nimmond on d'r "Ollda Lawny"
In sellra Tzide!

Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker, Lecturer on Pennsylvania German Folklore at Franklin & Marshall College, renders this stanza in this fashion:

'S hot keese, dat weear lant gans eewe,
Dar schwats grunt achtsee fuus diif nunar!
Mit bisl schafe kent mar leewe,
Un wii s doch wagse deet weear n wunar:
'S hot wariglich ee soo n alda gschwaware—
Fum brale bundar glat gewaware—
Di frucht deet sich dik dat schdoge
Das net 'n meisl drin kent hoge!
War weetse daar deet ne net feele,
"Ee hunart buschl kent mar tseele
Tsu yeedarm agar yeearlich, hendich!
Wawar s keeart hot, daar wawar gans lewendich
Far in di "Heio Schteet" tsu tsiie—
Gedengt das mensche kende liie
Hot nimant an de "Aldelawny"
In selre tseit.

Dr. Albert F. Buffington, Professor of German at The Pennsylvania State College, has re-transcribed it as follows:

Es hod gheese, daard waar's Land gans eewe,
Dr schwaz Grund achzee Funs dief nuner!
Mid bisel Schafe kend mr leewe,
Un wie's doch waxe deed weer'n Wuner:
Es hot wariglich ee soo'n Alder gschwaare—
Fum Brale buderglad gewaare—
Di Fruchd deed sich soo dig daard schdoge
Das ned en Meisel drin kend hoge!
Dr Weeze deer deed nie ned feele,
"Ee hunnerd Buschel" kend mr zeele
Zu yeederem Ager yeerlich, hendich!—
Weer's gheerd hod, deer waar gans lewendich
Fr in die "Heioo Schdeed" zu zie(g)e—
Gedengd das Mensche kende lie(g)e
Hod nimand an de "Alde Laani"
In selre Zeide!

Dr. J. William Frey, Professor of German at Franklin & Marshall College, has submitted the same stanza in this form:

'S hot g'heesse, dart waer 's Land gans ewe,
Der schwarz Grund achtzeh Fuuss dief nunner!
Mit bissel Schaffe kennt mer lewe,
Un wie's doch wachse daet waer 'n Wunner:
'S hot warriklich ee so n' Alder g'schwore—
Vum Bralle budder-glatt gewore—
Die Frucht daet sich so dick dart schtocke,
Das net 'n Meisel drin kennt hocke!
Der Weeze, daer daet nie net fehle,
"Ee hunnert Buschel" kennt mer zaehle
Zu yederm Acker yaehrlich, hendich!—
Waer's g'heert hot, daer waar gans lewendich
Far in die "'Hio Schteet" zu ziege—
Gedenkt dass Mensche kennte liege,
Hot nimmand an der "Alte Lawny"
In sellre Zeit!

Dr. Frey's spelling, but for a few slight deviations, conforms with Barba's rendition of Hermany's poem as it appeared in the ECK for Jan. 8, 1938. However, Barba claims to be neither phonetic nor consistent. Many problems remain to be solved. In the meanwhile he continues to be humbly appreciative of the general acclaim which his efforts have received both at home and abroad.—P.A.B.